

## 2015-K1016

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Nicholas Hernandez for his outstanding advocacy for and promotion of lymphedema awareness and research

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of organizations and individuals committed to helping to improve the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing tradition, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor Nicholas Hernandez for his outstanding advocacy for and promotion of lymphedema awareness and research upon the occasion of the observance of World Lymphedema Day on March 6, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Five-year-old Nicholas Hernandez has suffered with intestinal lymphangiectasia and primary lymphedema since birth; in spite of his age, young Nicholas and his family have been tireless advocates for lymphatic disease awareness, education and research; and

WHEREAS, World Lymphedema Day brings awareness to this often debilitating condition and helps find strength through collective celebration and is also set aside to honor inspirational lymphedema patients and advocates; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas Hernandez began his fundraising and awareness efforts at the young age of two, when he and his family and friends formed a fundraising team, Team Nick, for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 Walk to Fight Lymphedema & Lymphatic Diseases; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas Hernandez has worked tirelessly despite significant health issues, including having a specialized diet, daily in-home massage therapy and specialized compression garments for both day and night; and

WHEREAS, This brave boy and his team exceeded their fundraising goals

each of the years they participated; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas Hernandez's family and friends have devoted themselves to this cause, including garnering the support of local business leaders and professionals for the Walk to Fight Lymphedema & Lymphatic Diseases, which took their team and hundreds of supporters across the Brooklyn Bridge in 2014 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, Today, Nicholas Hernandez continues to be a positive role model for all lymphedema patients and especially young lymphedema patients; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Nicholas Hernandez for his outstanding advocacy and promotion of lymphedema awareness; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Nicholas Hernandez, and the Lymphatic Education & Research Network.